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Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Enrique **Ochoa** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 62/16 of 5 December 2007.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd and 10th meetings, on 4 and 14 October 2010, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 88 to 104 and 162. The general debate on those items was held at the 2nd to 8th and 10th meetings, from 4 to 8 and on 11, 12 and 14 October (see A/C.1/65/PV.2-8 and 10). The Committee also held 10 meetings, from 13 to 15, from 18 to 22 and on 25 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/65/PV.9-18). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 9th to 18th meetings, from 13 to 15, from 18 to 22 and on 25 October (see A/C.1/65/PV.9-18). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 23rd meetings, from 26 to 29 October (see A/C.1/65/PV.19-23).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.51

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" (A/C.1/65/L.51). Subsequently, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "and the declaration by Mongolia of its nuclear-weapon-free status," were inserted after the words "as well as the Antarctic Treaty";

(b) At the end of the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "and commending the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for its leadership in this endeavour" were inserted;

(c) The tenth preambular paragraph, which read:

> "*Stressing* the importance of States parties to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones expanding their collaboration in strengthening existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, supporting the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones, including single nuclear-weapon-free States, and of advancing the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and commending the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for its leadership in this area,"

was deleted;

(d) Operative paragraph 3, which read:

> "3. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States that formulated unilateral interpretative declarations at the moment of signature or ratification of the relevant Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to withdraw those declarations that affect the denuclearized status established by the Treaty;"

was replaced by:

> "3. *Encourages* States that have ratified the relevant Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to review any reservation in this regard, in accordance with action 9 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.51, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[1] was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Recalling also that, in its preamble, the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling further that, in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967, it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Recalling that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,[2] with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Highlighting the fact that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which is in force for thirty-three sovereign States of the region, consolidated the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated region,

Recognizing the important contribution of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga,[3] Bangkok[4] and Pelindaba[5] and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, as well as the Antarctic Treaty[6] and the declaration by Mongolia of its nuclear-weapon-free status, to the achievement of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions in support of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Welcoming the holding of the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[2] See resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII) and 290 (VII) adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on 3 July 1990, 9 May 1991 and 26 August 1992.

[3] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

[5] A/50/426, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

held in New York on 30 April 2010, as an important contribution to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Noting that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its final document,[7] encouraged the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones and the fostering of cooperation and enhanced consultation mechanisms among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones through the establishment of concrete measures, in order to fully implement the principles and objectives of the relevant nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, and commending the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for its leadership in this endeavour,

Reaffirming the importance of the Agency as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring full compliance with and implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as well as cooperation with the entities of other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[1] is in force for the sovereign States of the region;

2. *Urges* the countries of the region that have not yet done so to sign or deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII) and 290 (VII);

3. *Encourages* States that have ratified the relevant Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to review any reservations in this regard, in accordance with action 9 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[8]

4. *Encourages* States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean to continue the activities and efforts of the Agency with a view to implementing the agreements reached at the first and second conferences of States parties and signatories to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

[7] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I-III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I-III)).

[8] Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*, section I, entitled "Nuclear disarmament".